* 271 *Q.*—

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" I do not put the question, Sir."

Fair price shop for Coondapoor taluk.

* 272 *Q.*—SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the poor people of Gangolly and other places of Coondapoor taluk to increase the quantity of ration of rice issued in fair price shops; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Admission into Engineering Colleges.

* 272-A *Q.*—SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have appointed any Committee for Engineering Colleges to select students for admission;

(*b*) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, whether the Government have issued detailed instructions to the Committee to be followed in the method of selecting students;

(*c*) whether the Government have changed or modified the instructions in force last year; and

(*d*) if so, what are the reasons for the same?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Public Works) :—" I am placing a statement[a] on the table of the House giving full details in answer to the question."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" So far as the students belonging to the backward communities are concerned, I understand that in the last year's instructions, the words ' not less than 25 per cent ' were used. This year I find the words ' not less than ' have been taken away. Is it with a view to restrict the number of students belonging to the backward communities so far as admissions are concerned? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" In the instructions of last year. the words ' not less than 25 per cent ' were vague and indefinite. The present instructions are clear and convey the intention with which that regulation was made. Anything not less than 25 may mean 50, 100, 150 or even 200."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether over and above the 25 per cent of seats allotted to backward community candidates, students belonging to those communities can be selected on the basis of merit? If so, will the Hon. Minister give instructions to allow the students belonging to the backward communities and the Harijan community to compete first

[a] Printed as Appendix on page 592 infra.